

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the office action dated January 8, 2007.

Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 13-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,965,958), and further in view of Lobiondo (U.S. Patent No. 5,287,194).

Independent claims 1, 13, 20, 22 and 23 have been amended. Claims 4, 7, 8, 10, 14, 16, 18, 21 and 23 have been canceled.

The amended claims have been amended to more distinctly claim embodiments of the present invention that send multiple modified print tasks to multiple printers simultaneously. These modified print tasks are spooled in parallel to each of the associated printers simultaneously. The examiner relies on Lobiondo to teach print task splitting, however, Lobiondo teaches only a serial method in which printers are selected individually and portions of a print task are allotted to each printer according to the printer's ability to complete a job in an allotted time. Hence, Lobiondo does not teach splitting a print task among a pre-determined quantity of printers and simultaneously spooling the modified print tasks to those printers.

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Amdt. dated May 8, 2007
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Accordingly, these claims are believed to be patentable, as amended, and the applicant respectfully requests that the examiner allow these claims in their current form.

Respectfully submitted,

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